

January 4, 1964

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Mr. President:

As one who read and believed the Warren Report on the assassination of President Kennedy I am disturbed and chagrined that you would permit a government agency to dictate to you what will be done with testimony and exhibits for the next 75 years.

Knowing that you believe in the public's right to know - a statement you have often made - it intrigues me that you would permit a 75 year cloak of secrecy to fall over the facts involved in the Kennedy assassination.

The decision of the National Archives Bureau to withhold from the public "off the record testimony and exhibits of the Warren Commission for 75 years" is inexplicable and inexcusable and gives cause to doubt the veracity of the published Warren Commission report.

I believe in national security but I fail to see the relationship between the facts of the Kennedy assassination and the security of the nation at this time.

May I suggest that if there is true justification for withholding from the public the facts of one of the most tragic events of our time, it is also incumbent upon our national leadership to make it clear why.

Franklin D. Roosevelt said: "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself." Secrecy creates fear.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. L. Johnson
Mayor

The President
The White House
Washington 25, D. C.

RMLJ/bw